



Physician Charity Care

May 10, 2007

Physician Charity Care

- Nationally, 64.5% of physicians provide charity care (361,000)
- These physicians provide on average:
 - 7.5 hours of charity care per week
 - \$54,468 of charity care per year
 - \$19.7 billion of charity care per year

Physician Charity Care

- Nationally, 68.2% of physicians provide charity care (397,000)
- These physicians provide on average 10.6 hours of charity care per week

Key Findings

- ❑ The percentage of physicians providing charity care decreased to 68.2% from 71.5% in 2000-01
 - Across all major specialty groups
 - Across both urban and rural areas
 - For physicians at all levels of income
- ❑ Surgical specialist are the most likely to provide charity care (on call at hospitals)
- ❑ Pediatricians are the least likely to provide charity care (fewer children are uninsured)
- ❑ Levels of charity care are highest among physicians in solo or group practices and those who are full or part owners of their own practice

Implications

- Constraints from payers have created financial pressures that may be limiting ability to provide charity care
- Time pressures for physicians have increased, in part because of a strong surge in demand for physician services
- The movement toward larger practice arrangements and less ownership is also contributing to a decrease in charity care

Physician Charity Care

- Based on local survey, representing approximately 7% of physicians (10% clinics) in SD
- Statewide physicians provide an average of \$8430 of charity care per year
 - Estimated \$13.3 million of charity care per year in SD



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